



**US Army Corps
of Engineers
Fort Worth District**

News Release

Release No. CESWF-PA-01-027 Contact: Ron Ruffennach

For Release: Immediate 25 May 01 Phone: (817) 978-2196

Water Safety Reminder for Memorial Day Weekend

As the Memorial Day weekend approaches and everyone is making plans to spend it at the lake, officials with the Fort Worth District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, would like to remind everyone to play it safe during the first holiday weekend of the recreation season.

"Memorial Day always brings thousands of people to our lakes," said Col. Gordon M. Wells, Fort Worth District Engineer. "Some are anxious to get that new boat or jet ski out on the water and spend the day relaxing with family members."

The Fort Worth District operates and maintains 25 lakes in Texas which draw an estimated 25 million visitors each year.

"We want to remind everyone to be extremely careful so they can come back throughout the summer," Wells said. "This year, we've already had people drown and every one of these deaths was preventable."

Common mistakes include temporary lapses in adult supervision of small children, alcohol and drug abuse, reckless operation of personal watercraft, diving from banks into unknown depths, skiing in congested areas, overexertion, swimming in undesignated areas and overcrowding of boats.

Wells also cautions boaters to be especially alert since the lakes will be crowded.

- 30 -

Visit the Fort Worth District web site at www.swf.usace.army.mil/links/pao/pao.htm